By the Queene.

A Proclamation concerning new buildings and Inmates, in or about the Citie of London.

WHereas the Queenes most excellent Maiestie, heretofore in her Princely wisedome and prouidence foreseeing the great and manifolde inconueniences and mischiefes, which did then grow, and were like more and more to increase vnto the State of the citie of London, and the Suburbes and confines thereof, by the accesse and confluence of people to inhabite in the same, Not onely by reason that such multitudes could hardly bee gouerned by ordinarie Justice to serue God and obey her Maiestie, without constituting and addition of more Officers, and enlarging of authorities and Jurisdictions for that purpose, but also could hardly bee prouided of sustentation of victuall, foode, and other like necessaries for mans reliefe vpon reasonable prices, And finally for that such great multitudes of people, being brought to inhabite in small roomes, whereof a great part being verie poore, and such as must liue by begging or by worse meanes, and being heaped vp together, and in a sort smothered with many families of children and seruants in one house or smal Tenement, it must needs follow, if any plague, or other vniuersal sickines should by Gods permission enter among those multitudes, that the same would not onely spread it selfe, and inuade the whole Citie and confines, but would bee also dispersed through all other parts of the Realme, whereby great mortalitie should ensue, to the manifest danger of the whole bodie thereof, out of which neither her Maiesties owne person (but by Gods speciall ordinance) nor any other whatsoeuer could be exempted: For remedie whereof, her Maiestie by her Proclamation bearing date the seuenth day of July, in the two and twentieth yere of her Raigne, did charge and command all maner of persons of what qualitie so euer they were, to desist and forbeare from any new buildings of any house or Tenement within three miles from any of the gates of the said Citie of London, to serue for any habitation or lodging for any person, where no former house had beene knowen to haue beene, in the memorie of such as were then liuing; And also to forbeare from letting or setting, or suffering any more families then one onely, to bee placed or to inhabite from thencefoorthin any house that before that time had beene inhabited, as by the said Proclamation, amongst other prouisions, charges and commandements therein contained, more fully and at large appeareth. And whereas afterwards, in the nine and thirtieth and fourtieth yeeres of her Highnesse raigne, vpon seuerall Bils of complaint exhibited by her Maisties Atturney generall into the high Court of Starrechamber before her Highnesse Councell there, against diuers persons for diuers offences by them committed and done contrarie to the tenour of the said Proclamation, The said Councell grauely waighing and considering the manifolde mischiefes that did then happen, and were like dayly to encrease, for want of due execution of the said Proclamation, did make and set downe verie profitable and necessarie Orders and Decrees in that behalfe, as by the said Orders and Decrees remaining of Record in her said Court of Starchamber more fully and at large appeareth. And whereas the Lords and others of her Highnes Honorable Priuie Councel, perceiuing great delay, negligence, and parcialitie vsed in the execution of the said Proclamation, Orders, and Decrees, haue also at sundrie times written their letters vnto such of her Highnesse Officers to whome it did apperteine, for the putting in due execution of the saide Proclamation, Orders and Decrees: Her Maiestie perceiuing, that notwithstanding her gracious and Princely Commandement signified by her said Proclamation, and the Honourable care of her priuie Councell touching the same, yet it falleth out, partly by the couetous & insatiable dispositions of some persons, that without any respect of the Common good and publike profite of the Realme, doe onely regard their owne particular lucre and gaine, and partly by the negligence and corruption of others, who by reason of their offices & places ought to see the said Proclamation, Orders, and Decrees duely performed, and yet doe vndutifully neglect the same, that the said mischiefes and inconueniences do daily encrease and multiplie, to the great contempt of her Maiesties royall commandement, the manifest danger of the whole Realme, and especially of the saide Citie of London and the confines thereof, and to the great offence of many of her faithfull and louing subiects: Doth by the aduice of her said Councell, straightly charge and command the Lorde Maior of the Citie of London, and all other Officers hauing authoritie within the same, and also all Justices of peace, Lords and Bailiffes of Liberties, not being within the Jurisdiction of the said Lorde Maior of London, faithfully and diligently to execute and performe, and cause to be executed and performed within the Citie of London, and within all places being within three miles of the Cities of London or Westminster, these Articles following.

1 FIrſt, that no new Buildings of any new Houſe or Tenement bee from henceforth erected, or attempted to be erected within the Citie of London, or the Suburbs thereof, or within three miles of the Citie of London, or Weſtminſter, except the ſame bee vpon the foundation of a former dwelling Houſe: And if any ſuch happen to bee begun, that the ſame be forthwith by the view of the Juſtices of the Peace within that limit pulled downe, and the Timber thereof begun to be ſet vp, to be ſold to the reliefe of the poore of the Pariſh, where the ſame ſhall happen to be.

2 THat from henceforth there be no diuiding of any Houſe or Tenement, within the Precincts aforeſaid into ſeuerall dwellings, but to be kept as one Houſe, nor any more dwelling Houſes to be built vpon any former foundation of a dwelling Houſe, then before was vpon the ſame Houſe.

3 AND for ſuch Tenements as haue beene diuided within theſe tenne yeeres within London, Weſtminſter, or within three miles compaſſe thereof, the Inmates to be auoyded preſently, if they haue no eſtate for life, liues, or yeeres yet enduring: And for ſuch as haue ſuch eſtate or terme, then as the ſame ſhall ende and determine, ſo the Tenement to be reduced to the former eſtate, and no Tenant to be admitted in place of the other.

4 ALl Sheds and Shops to be plucked downe, that haue bene builded within the places and precincts aforeſaide, within ſeuen yeeres laſt paſt.

5 ALl Houſes, Tenements, or Buildings, erected within theſe ſeuen yeeres laſt paſt, and not let out, or being voyd of a Tenant, order to be taken that the ſame ſhal not be inhabited nor let to any, vnleſſe the owner ſhalbe content that the Churchwardens and the Miniſter, by allowance of two or more of the Juſtices of the Peace of that diuiſion, ſhall diſpoſe of them for ſome of the poore, or for the good and behalfe of the poore of the Pariſh that are deſtitute of Houſes, and at and vnder ſuch Rents, as they ſhall allow.

6 ALl other Tenements or buildings, not built vpon an old foundation of a dwelling houſe, that are not at this preſent finiſhed, to be plucked downe, And the Builders or Leaſors that binde or tye the Tenants to build vpon their ground, to be bound to appeare in the Starchamber, and to commit the workemen to priſon, that ſhall perſiſt after warning giuen by any Juſtice of the Peace, or Conſtable.

7 THoſe Houſes and Tenements, that are already demiſed or letten, diligently to enquire what terme they haue, and if they haue them from yeere to yeere, Then the Tenant to be commanded to auoyde, and to prouide himſelfe elſewhere without the precincts aforeſaid before the ende of three moneths: And order to be alſo taken that the Houſe bee not let againe, but in ſuch ſort as is before expreſſed.

8 WHen and as often as any Tenant ſhal auoyd, deceaſe, or leaue any of the ſayde new erected Tenements, or that their termes do expire, Then, and ſo often, ſtrict order to bee taken, that the ſame bee not afterwards let or ſet, but in maner before ſet downe and allowed. And if any perſon ſhall demiſe or take any the Tenements aforeſaid, or any part of any of them, contrary to the true meaning and intent of this Proclamation: Euery ſuch perſon, to bee committed to priſon, vntill aduertiſement ſhall thereof bee giuen to the Lordes of her Maieſties priuie Councell, and not be deliuered, before hee be bound to anſwere the ſame in the Starrechamber, as contemners of this her Maieſties Proclamation.

9 AND if any ſhal henceforth offend in new building, or in diuiding of any Tenement, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Proclamation, And all Workemen continuing the ſame worke, after they ſhal be forbidden thereof by any Juſtice of peace, or Conſtable of the place or limit where the ſame ſhall happen to bee, ſhall bee committed to priſon, vntill they ſhall finde ſufficient ſureties for their apparance in the Starrechamber, to anſwere their contempts there, and for their good behauiour in the meane ſeaſon.

Giuen at her Maieſties Manor of Greenewich, the xxii. day of June, in the foure and fortieth yeere of her Highneſſe raigne.

God ſaue the Queene.

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Maieſtie. 1602.

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6 ALl other Tenements or buildings, not built vpon [redacted]dation of a dwelling houſe, that are not at this preſent finiſhed, to be plucked downe, And the Build[redacted]hat binde or tye the Tenants to build vpon their ground, to be bound to appeare in the Starchamber, [redacted] workemen to priſon, that ſhall perſiſt after warning giuen by any Juſtice of the Peace, or Conſtable.

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